

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for fractional crystallisation of an at most partially solidified molten metal, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising cooling a layer<sub>1</sub> of at most partially solidified molten metal to be crystallised<sub>1</sub>, ~~is cooled~~ by a layer of cooling liquid ~~which is~~ present above and/or below the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal so as to crystallise the molten metal, which layer of cooling liquid contacts the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the layer of cooling liquid is only present below the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2, in which~~ wherein the layer of cooling liquid is cooled at at least one spot near the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which wherein the cooling liquid is transported relative to the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 4, ~~in which~~ wherein the cooling liquid is recycled ~~and preferably cooled~~.
6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the molten metal is transported relative to the layer of cooling liquid.
7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the cooling liquid ~~that is used~~ is a molten salt.
8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid.
9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred.
10. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 9 ~~in combination with claim~~ 8, ~~in which~~ wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid, and wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred in ~~at~~ at least one compartment, preferably in all ~~compartments~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein at most partially solidified molten metal is added between both ends of the length of the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal, and refined metal is removed at one end and remaining molten metal is removed at the other end of the layer of metal.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the metal used is aluminium.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the method removes ~~for removing~~ Cu, Fe, Ga, Mg, Mn, B, Si, Sn, Zn or Ni from aluminium.

14. (New) Method according to claim 4, wherein the cooling liquid is recycled and cooled.

15. (New) Method according to claim 9, wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid, and wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred in all compartments.